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JUDGES IN 5 STATES SENTENCE FEDERAL GAME-LAW VIOLATORS

Twenty-four violators of Federal game laws in Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas, Ohio, and Montana have received a total of \$1,529.60 in fines and 20 months in jail as judges continued imposing heavy penalties on Federal game-law infringements, the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of the Interior announced today. Fines ranged from \$50 to \$312.35, and jail sentences from 10 days to 10 months.

In Arkansas, 15 men pleaded guilty at the April sessions of Federal court at Little Rock. Judge Harry Limley imposed the following sentences:

William Decker, of Stuttgart, 3 months in jail, and Ben Smith, Jack Thompson, Luther Fields, J. D. Thatch, and D. J. Nawlin, all of Arkansas County, \$50 each for shooting wild ducks out of season; Cleveland Edwards, of Stuttgart, 30 days in jail for shooting wild ducks after hours on December 15, 1939; H. Roy Simpson, of Stuttgart, and Elon Alford, both of Hegler, \$100 and \$50 plus 30 days in jail, respectively, for hunting with automatic shotguns out of season.

Louis Manlove, of Stuttgart, 30 days in jail for possessing wild ducks in closed season; Viril Melton, of Augusta, 30 days in jail for killing and possessing wild ducks in closed season; William Woodrow Turner, of Tichnor, \$50 for

killing wild ducks in closed season; Ollie Brandenburg, of Ethel, \$50 and Elmo Temple, of Marvel, 26 days in jail for trapping fur animals in closed season and transporting furs to Mississippi for sale; and Charley M. Fridell, of Marvel, 30 days in jail for trapping fur animals on the White River National Wildlife Refuge, near Stuttgart.

Judge Scores Bootleggers, Gives Stiff Fines

In Federal court at Davenport, Iowa, Judge Charles A. Dewey gave heavy fines and delivered a stinging rebuke to two bootleggers who claimed that the wild ducks offered as evidence by Biological Survey agents were not the same ducks the violators had sold to the Federal men. In defense, the bootleggers offered an alibi common to wild duck sellers--that the birds sold were domesticated mallards. In pronouncing sentence on Carl Bowers and Walter Platt, Sr., both of Camanche, Judge Dewey said:

"When you use the defense that these ducks presented here as evidence are not the same ducks that you sold the agents, you go too far. These agents work for the Government and are men of character or they would not hold the positions they do. If they would stoop to substitute ducks as evidence in place of those actually bought they should be sent to the penitentiary. The court finds you guilty and in Mr. Bower's case the fine will be \$25 a duck--ten ducks would make a total of \$250 and costs of \$37.50. In Mr. Platt's case, five ducks at \$25 each or \$125, and costs of \$36.25."

Bowers and Platt, according to the agents, were well known in the area as market hunters.

In Minnesota, Justice of the Peace Charles Gamble, of Fairmont, cracked down on Robert William Thiede, a Fairmont fur buyer who violated the Minnesota and

Federal laws by the interstate shipment during closed season of some 600 muskrat pelts, which he sold in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Justice Gamble fined Theide \$300 and costs of \$12.35 or 270 days in jail.

In Texas, Justice of the Peace Gus Brown, of Fort Worth, sentenced J. C. Jasper, a rancher of Saginaw, to a fine of \$200 and costs of \$11 for shooting four upland plovers, which are completely protected from hunting by both State and Federal regulations.

In Ohio, likewise, game-law violators found little sympathy in the courts when the defendants were known to have been engaged in illegal activities in the past. Edward John Ringle, of Castalia, who was apprehended for taking pheasants in closed season and without a State hunting license, was fined \$300 and cost of \$7.50 by Justice W. W. Sedwick. Roy Lee Alsbaugh, of Castalia, was fined \$50 and costs of \$7.50 for aiding and abetting Ringle. For failing to pay the fine, Ringle, who admitted on the stand that he had been a market hunter, was sent to jail for 308 days. Federal game agents cooperated with State wardens in this case.

In April sessions of the Federal Court at Missoula, Montana, Judge James H. Baldwin put into effect a warning issued from his bench last year, when he declared that future game-law violators appearing in his court would be jailed instead of fined. Apparently believing that fines had little effect on some violators in that section of the country, Judge Baldwin sentenced the following to 10 days in jail each:

T. J. Broman, C. W. Ditty, and Wallace Laurent, all of Missoula, for hunting pheasants on the Nine-Pipe National Wildlife Refuge in Lake County; William R. Campbell and Howard S. Hanson, both of Kalispel, for trespassing and hunting

on the Pablo National Wildlife Refuge in Lake County; and Meade Drayton, of
Roman, and Gordon L. Johnson, of Polson, for hunting with guns capable of hold-
ing more than 3 shells.

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